



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 09 December 2022**

**WK 17336/2022 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**AGRI  
PESTICIDE  
SEMENCES  
AGRILEG  
ENV  
PHYTOSAN  
CODEC**

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## **MEETING DOCUMENT**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council  
**To:** Working Party on Food and Food Systems (Pesticide Residues)  
Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Pesticides/Plant Protection Products)

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**Subject:** Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Pesticides/Plant Protection Products) on 7 December 2022 - Agenda item 1: Legislation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques – state of play

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Following the Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Pesticides/Plant Protection Products) on 7 December 2022, delegations will find in annex the presentation given by the Commission services, on the above subject.



European  
Commission

# Legislation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques – state of play

*European Commission  
DG Health and Food Safety*

*Council Working Party PPPs  
7 December 2022*



# What are New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)?

- Techniques, capable of altering the genetic material of an organism, that have emerged or have been developed since 2001, when Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment was adopted
- Diverse group of techniques to achieve different results, from limited changes that could also occur in nature or with conventional breeding to multiple and more extensive modifications.



## Mutagenesis

Changes without insertion of genetic material

## Cisgenesis

Insertion of genetic material from organisms that are sexually compatible

## Transgenesis

Insertion of genetic material from other organisms that are sexually incompatible

# Context of the Commission initiative



## Farm to Fork Strategy



April 2021 - Commission study on new genomic techniques

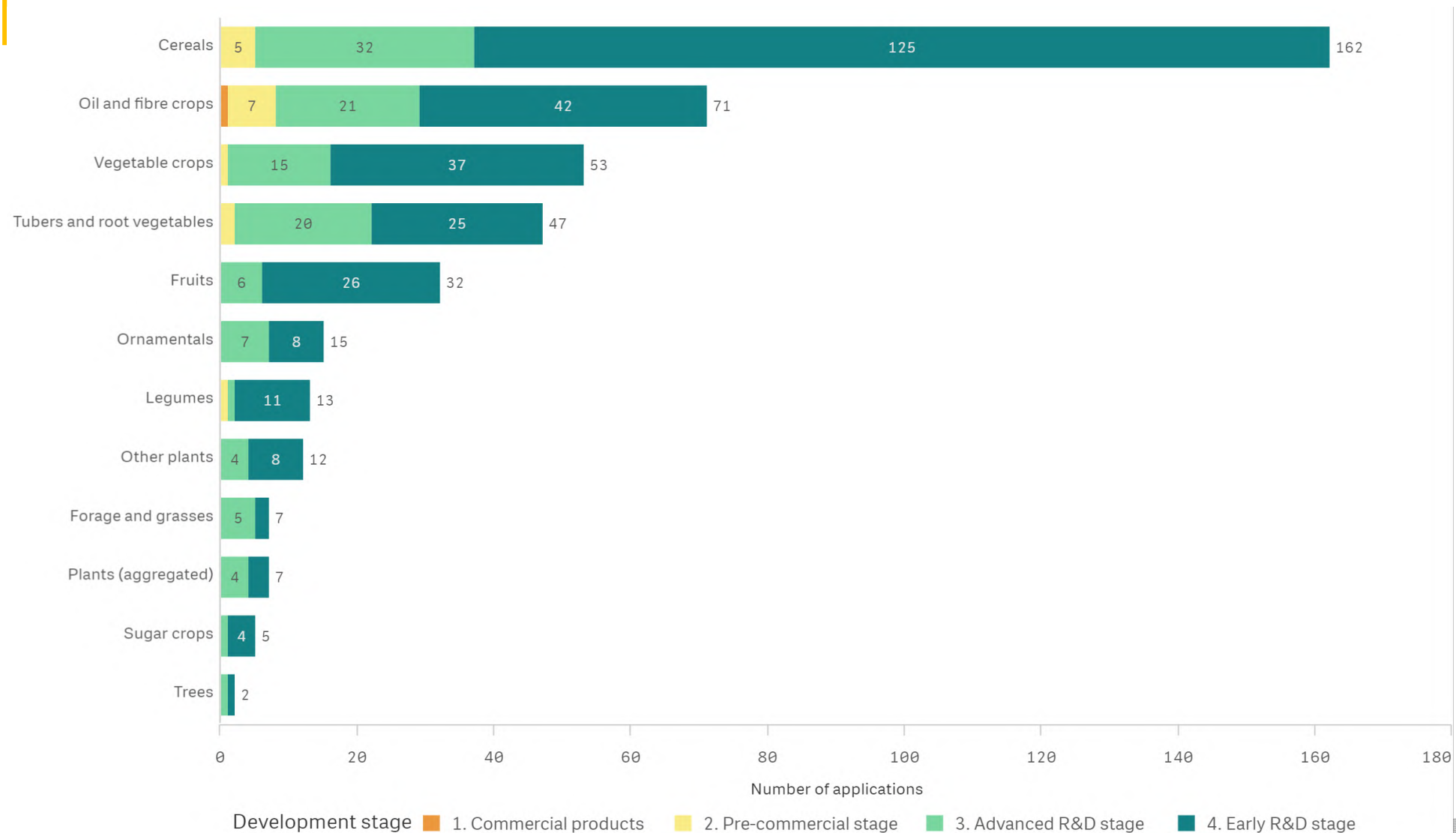


# Commission study on new genomic techniques\*

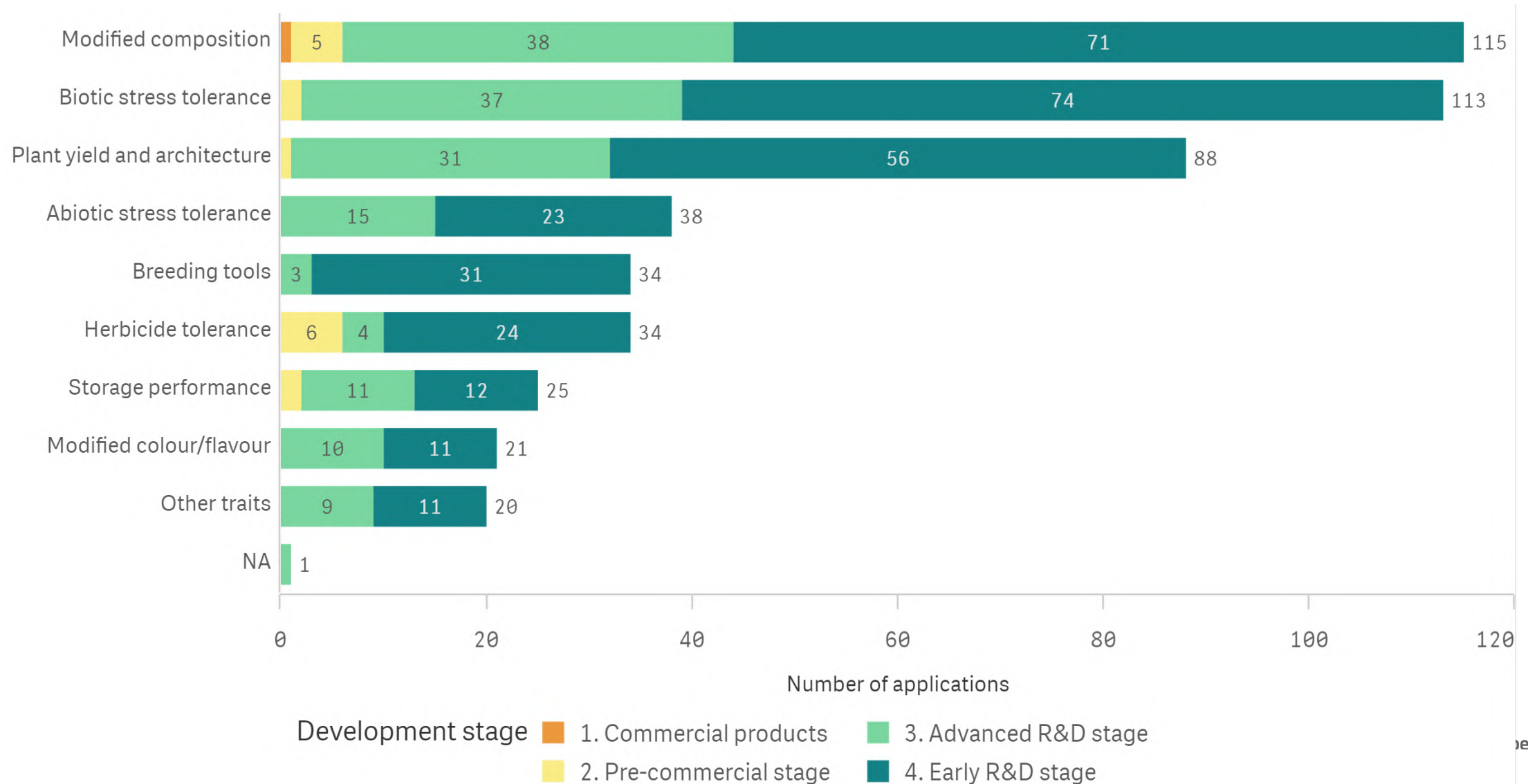
- ✓ Strong interest in the EU and globally in NGT products
- ✓ Current regulatory oversight and risk assessment requirements are not tailored to diverse risk profiles and have implementation and enforcement challenges.
- ✓ NGTs can contribute to Green Deal and Farm to Fork objectives, as well as to a more competitive economy.
- ✓ Reported concerns on possible negative impacts on the environment, consumers' right to information and coexistence with the organic and GM-free sector.

\* [https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-04/gmo\\_mod-bio\\_ngt\\_eu-study.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-04/gmo_mod-bio_ngt_eu-study.pdf)

# NGTs plants – applications by crop groups (JRC study 2021)



# NGT plants – applications by traits (JRC study 2021)



# Other available databases



Interactive, publicly accessible online database of genome edited crop plants as described in peer-reviewed scientific publications  
<https://www.eu-sage.eu/genome-search>

## TRAITS CATEGORIES

- Traits related to increased plant yield and growth (143)
- Traits related to improved food/feed quality (141)
- Traits related to biotic stress tolerance (115)
- Traits related to industrial utilization (91)
- Traits related to herbicide tolerance (49)
- Traits related to abiotic stress tolerance (47)
- Traits related to product color/flavour (38)
- Traits related to storage performance (13)



# Scope and objectives of the Commission's initiative



## Scope

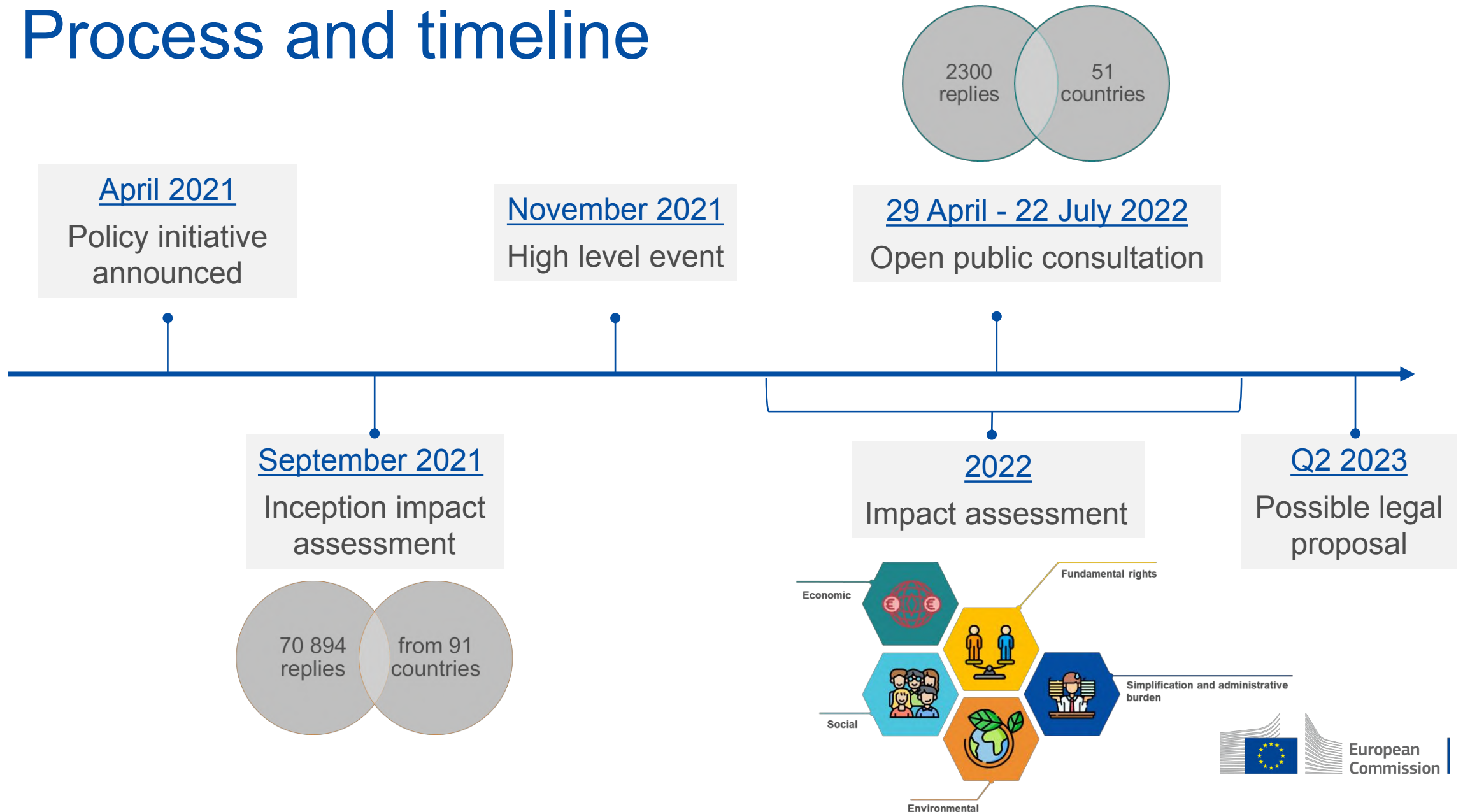
Plants, and their food and feed products, produced by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis



## Objectives

Ensure high level of protection of human and animal health and the environment  
Reap benefits from innovation, in particular to contribute to the goals of the Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy

# Process and timeline



# Impact assessment: Policy approaches examined



Risk  
assessment and  
approval



Sustainability



Traceability



Information

# Impact assessment



- Open public consultation
- Targeted stakeholder consultation (survey, interviews, focus groups)
- EFSA and JRC technical contributions

# Thank you

Follow the initiative at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13119-Legislation-for-plants-produced-by-certain-new-genomic-techniques>

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/genetically-modified-organisms/new-techniques-biotechnology\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/genetically-modified-organisms/new-techniques-biotechnology_en)



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Slide 2 : picture, source: Gettyimages. Slides 8, 9, 10 and 11: icons, source: Flaticon.

